



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/767,463	01/28/2004	Joseph Kirk Ollis	50037.209US01	3622
27488	7590	04/06/2007		
MERCHANT & GOULD (MICROSOFT)			EXAMINER	
P.O. BOX 2903			NGUYEN, LE V	
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903				
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2174	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/06/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/767,463	Applicant(s) OLLIS ET AL.	
	Examiner Le Nguyen	Art Unit 2174	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☒ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/4/04, 2/7/05 and 6/5/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Oath/Declaration

1. Non-initialed and/or non-dated alterations have been made to the oath or declaration. See 37 CFR 1.52(c).

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 800. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities of not including the following reference character(s) depicted in the drawings: 900 of fig. 9. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Screen Dumps of Microsoft Outlook ("MS Outlook").

As per claim 10, MS Outlook teaches a system for representing items comprising a display configured to display items and a pinned items application that is configured to perform the following actions, including pinning an item selected by a user and instructing the display to display the pinned item such that the pinned item is distinguishable and prioritized higher than related non-pinned items (figs. 1-3; *users "pin" the items that are important to them by flagging it (fig. 1 depicts flagging items such as item 210 of fig. 2) and sort by flag status via double clicking on the flag icon 200 of the sort bar, the pinned items are displayed at the top of their list and are visually distinguishable from non-pinned items; moreover, a special icon such as the flag icon is placed with the item showing that it is "pinned"*).

As per claim 11, MS Outlook teaches a system for representing items wherein the pinned item includes an icon indicating that it is pinned (fig. 3; *highlighted pinned item includes a flag icon indicating that it has been pinned*).

As per claim 12, MS Outlook teaches a system for representing items wherein the pinned item application is configured to create a copy of the item selected to pin to

be used as the pinned item (figs. 5-6; *fig. 6 depicts a copy of the item selected to be pinned through the use of the copy and paste feature of fig. 5*).

As per claim 14, MS Outlook teaches a system for representing items wherein the pinned item application configured to manage pinned items (figs. 4 and 7-8(c); e.g. *the pinned item is moved relative to other items via drag-and-drop procedure (not shown) or by changing the sorting criteria to one of ascending ("Sort Ascending" of fig. 4), descending ("Sort Descending" of fig. 4), "Group By This Field" (fig. 4), "From" (fig. 4), "Received" (fig. 4), "Subject" (fig. 4), etc.)*).

As per claim 15, MS Outlook teaches a system for representing items wherein managing the pinned items comprises moving the pinned items within the pinned items list ((figs. 4 and 7-8(c); e.g. *managing the pinned item comprises moving the pinned items within the pinned items list via drag-and-drop procedure (not shown) or by changing the sorting criteria to one of ascending ("Sort Ascending" of fig. 4), descending ("Sort Descending" of fig. 4), "Group By This Field" (fig. 4), "From" (fig. 4), "Received" (fig. 4), "Subject" (fig. 4), etc.)*).

As per claim 16, MS Outlook teaches a system for representing items wherein managing the pinned items comprises deleting at least one of the pinned items (fig. 5; *selecting the "Delete" menu item deletes the highlighted pinned item*).

Claims 1 and 17 are individually similar in scope to claim 10 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 2 and 18 are individually similar in scope to claim 11 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 3 and 19 are individually similar in scope to claim 12 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 4, MS Outlook teaches a method for pinning and displaying items wherein the item to pin is selected from a group comprising a contact, a folder, a file, a field, an application, and a message (figs. 2-8(c)).

As per claims 5 and 20, MS Outlook teaches a method and computer readable medium for pinning and displaying items comprising creating a copy of the item selected to pin (*via copy-and-paste feature of fig. 5, i.e. Copy+ Paste*).

Claim 7 is similar in scope to claim 15 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 8 is similar in scope to claim 16 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 9, MS Outlook teaches a method for pinning and displaying items wherein deleting the pinned item comprises keeping a corresponding item within an unpinned item list (figs. 9-10; *selection of Find All > Related Messages of fig. 9 returns a list of related/corresponding messages of fig. 10 wherein deleting a pinned item comprises keeping a corresponding item within an unpinned item list*).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 6 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Screen Dumps of Microsoft Outlook ("MS Outlook") in view of March et al. ("March").

As per claim 13, although MS Outlook teaches a system for representing items wherein instructing the display to display the pinned item comprises displaying the pinned item only when it is associated with a category currently being displayed (figs. 2 and 11; *displaying the pinned item only when the associated category, By Follow-up Flag, is currently being displayed (fig. 2); however, when the category is one of Unread Messages, the pinned item is not displayed (fig. 11)*), MS Outlook does not explicitly disclose the category to be a category view, i.e. user-defined category title such as Buds/Buddies. March teaches displaying a category view, i.e. user-defined category title such as Buds/Buddies (fig. 2; paragraph [0005]). It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of March with the method of MS Outlook in order to organize contact lists into meaningful categories.

Claim 6 is similar in scope to claim 13 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Roskind et al. (US 7,124,123 B1) teach an intelligent processing in the context of away and offline instant messages.

Kirmse et al. (US 2005/0027382 A1) teach a game server for use in connection with a messenger server.

Wick (US 2004/0093387) teaches monitoring users of a computer network.


Inquires

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Lê Nguyen whose telephone number is **(571) 272-4068**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached at (571) 272-4063.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

lvn
Patent Examiner
February 27, 2007


SY D. LUU
PRIMARY EXAMINER